



Abolmoschus moschatus ssp tuberosus

The Native Gardener

Newsletter of the
Society for Growing Australian Plants
Townsville Branch Inc.
PO Box 363, Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814.

October 2010

General Meeting 8.00pm Wednesday 13th October
Community Centre– Annandale Shopping Centre
Committee Meeting 7.30pm Monday 25th October
(2 Hoya Court)

Wednesday 13th October 8pm
Keith Townsend

Banksias of Western Australia
and
Calytrix from the Burra Range

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Plants of Magnetic Island (3rd Edition) (released 29/09/10)

Many of you will have grown used to turning the pages of Betsy Jackes' groundbreaking and popular book on local plants. I am very pleased to announce that this has now been republished as an e-book, completely revised and modernised whilst retaining the familiar format. It is also *free* so make sure you take advantage of this wonderful new development here:

http://www-public.icu.edu.au/discovernature/JCUPRD1_065131

Congratulations Betsy!

The Committee are attempting to archive a complete set of the publications that SGAP Townsville have been responsible for since 1970. This is a surprisingly long list, and will be published here shortly. They are unable to find a copy of the Townsville Conference Papers for 1984, and would be delighted to hear from you if you could supply them with a copy. **Thank You!**

In Flower in September 2010

Acanthaceae	<i>Graptophyllum ilicifolium</i>
Bixaceae	<i>Cochlospermum gillivraei</i>
Mimosaceae	<i>Acacia montfordiae</i>
	<i>Archidendron grandiflorum</i>
Myristicaceae	<i>Myristica insipida</i>
Myrtaceae	<i>Chamelaucium uncinatum</i>
Proteaceae	<i>Darlingia darlingiana</i>
	<i>Grevillea banksii</i> (red)
	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Georgiana'
	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Honey Gem'
Rutaceae	<i>Flindersia australis</i>
	<i>Melicope rubra</i>
Thymeliaceae	<i>Phalaria octandra</i> (pictured below)





The attached photograph, which I showed at the last meeting has (as I suspected) turned out to be an exotic, but nevertheless would be a very attractive ornament to any garden. It is *Leucospermum patersonii*, a member of the Proteaceae family, and native to South Africa and Zimbabwe.

It seemed quite happy in the cold and wet conditions near the southern ocean in Albany, and I would guess that it would probably not relish our hot and humid summers.

Keith Townsend

The plant brought to the meeting by Jane last month is *Achyranthes aspera*..

Among many common names are Devil's Horsewhip and Chaff Flower. It is an herbaceous plant widespread across tropical regions of Australia and indeed across most tropical regions of the world. Whilst it is accepted as a native of Australia it is undoubtedly a weed in most areas, as it is not a pleasant plant to become tangled with.

The leaves are widely used in many countries, in particular India, for medicinal purposes. It is said to be useful in treating many stomach problems, bronchitis, heart disease, piles and blood disorders.

Orchids in Townsville

Our native landscape is showing all the signs of having benefitted from a prolonged wet season, and a benign dry season. Flowers are beginning to make a showing in all the varied habitats that we are accustomed to, and anyone looking for flowering plants at this time of year will have no difficulty in finding orchids in bloom.

Orchids are rarely mentioned in our group, perhaps because they are considered a specialised plant, but in fact botanically they are Angiosperms and Monocotyledons, just like palms, grasses or lilies. The following excerpt from Wikipedia gives some idea of the importance of this family in the botanical world.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia:

Orchidaceae, commonly referred to as the **Orchid family**, is a morphologically diverse and widespread family of *monocots*. It is currently believed to be the second largest family of flowering plants (only the *Asteraceae* is larger), with between 21,950 and 26,049 currently accepted *species*, found in 880 genera.

The number of orchid species equals more than twice the number of *bird* species, and about four times the number of *mammal* species. It also encompasses about 6–11% of all *seed plants*.

The largest genera are *Bulbophyllum* (2,000 species), *Epidendrum* (1,500 species), *Dendrobium* (1,400 species) and *Pleurothallis* (1,000 species).

All orchids are perennial herbs, lacking a woody structure, and are categorised by being either terrestrial or epiphytic, that is either ground dwelling or using their developed root system to grow on a host plant, or even rock.

I have compiled this list of 59 local orchid species from several sources, so amendments and additions are welcomed. It would also appear that orchid names are changed with enthusiasm so some of these may be out of date?



Dockrillia teretifolium from Herveys Range

Terrestrial

<i>Acianthus fornicatus</i> □	Mosquito Orchid
<i>Anoectochilus yatesae</i>	
<i>Arthrochilus oreophilus</i>	
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	
<i>Calanthe triplicata</i>	Christmas Orchid
<i>Dipodium ensifolium</i>	
<i>Diuris aurea</i>	
<i>Genoplesium alticolum</i>	
<i>Geodorum densiflorum</i>	Pink Nodding Orchid
<i>Habenaria ferdinandi</i>	
<i>Habenaria propinquior</i>	
<i>Habenaria triplonema</i>	Rein Orchid
<i>Liparis habenarina</i> □	
<i>Malaxis latifolia</i>	
<i>Nervilia plicata</i>	
<i>Pterostylis hildae</i>	
<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>	
<i>Zuexine oblonga</i>	

Epiphytes

<i>Bryobium queenslandicum</i>
<i>Bulbophyllum schillerianum</i>

<i>Bulbophyllum baileyi</i>	
<i>Bulbophyllum bowkettiae</i>	
<i>Bulbophyllum evasum</i>	
<i>Bulbophyllum johnsonii</i>	
<i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>	
<i>Bulbophyllum newportii</i>	
<i>Bulbophyllum radicans</i>	
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	Channel Leaf Cymbidium
<i>Cymbidium madidum</i>	Native Madidum
<i>Cymbidium suave</i>	
<i>Dendrobium adae</i>	
<i>Dendrobium agrostophyllum</i>	Buttercup Orchid
<i>Dendrobium bairdianum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium canaliculatum</i>	Teatree Orchid
<i>Dendrobium discolor</i>	Golden Orchid
<i>Dendrobium gracicaule</i>	
<i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium linguaforme</i>	
<i>Dendrobium monophyllum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium schoeninum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium racemosum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium ruppianum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium tetragonum var. giganteum</i>	Tree Spider Orchid
<i>Dendrobium X ruppiosum</i>	
<i>Dockrillia bowmanii</i>	
<i>Dockrillia teretifolium</i>	
<i>Liparis angustilabris</i>	
<i>Malaxis latifolia</i>	
<i>Mobilabium hamatum</i>	
<i>Oberania titania</i>	Soldiers Crest Orchid
<i>Pholidota imbricata</i>	Rattlesnake Orchid
<i>Phraetia baileyana</i>	
<i>Phreatia crassiuscula</i>	
<i>Plectorrhiza tridentata</i>	Tangle Orchid
<i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i>	Fairy Bells
<i>Sarcochilus minutiflos</i>	Butterfly Orchid
<i>Thelymitra nuda</i>	Scented Sun Orchid



Dendrobium discolor Orchidaceae
Golden Orchid
on ***Araucaria cunninghamii*** Hoop
Pine at Cape Cleveland

'Hundreds' of Kimberley plant species await discovery

The recent discovery of more than 10 new plant species in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia has brought a ray of hope to environmental scientists in the International Year of Biodiversity.

Botanists and brothers, Matt and Russell Barrett – who grew up in the Kimberley, and now work for Perth's Kings Park Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority – discovered the species during a one-week expedition in March.

Using Google Earth, they targeted prospective plant hotspots in the rugged Prince Regent River and Mitchell Plateau area and then explored them by helicopter. Due to its inaccessible terrain and seasonal downpours, the Kimberley is one of the few areas in Australia to escape the wave of native species extinctions that followed European settlement.

However, this biodiversity needs to be protected from future human activity, particularly mining operations. The area, which is home to Rio Tinto's Argyle diamond mine, is dotted with mineral leases.

As Russell Barrett explains, Prince Regent River's unique topography – steep gorges, large flat mesas, and cliffs that drop vertically for hundred of metres – has so far acted like a fortress, protecting plants from mining activities and invasive species.

'It's one of the most dissected landscapes in the state, and the mesas have been isolated from each other for a long time, creating a diversity of species,' he says.

Barrett says about 3000 known plant species have been identified from the Kimberley – an increase of 1500 from when Kings Park scientists started exploring the area in the 1980s – but there are possibly hundreds more yet to be discovered. Barrett suspects there are at least 1200 species in the Prince Regent River area alone.

As this part of the Kimberley is too inhospitable for human settlements, it has no rainfall gauges. However, estimates put annual rainfall at 1600 mm or higher, making it one of the state's wettest areas.

In the dry season, in the deeply incised gorges of the region, moist refuges are available for rainforest plants.

'People tend to think of the Kimberley as arid – most of them only drive there during the dry season, along the dusty Gibb River road,' says Barrett. 'But there are plenty of unique and unusual rainforest pockets off the beaten track.' The Barrett brothers have been researching plant species in the Kimberley for the past 15 years, adding more to the knowledge about plant species in the area than any other botanists in recent history.

The new plants include species from Acacia, Hibbertia, Melaleuca, Boronia, Triodia (spinifex), Solanum (bush tomatoes) and Eucalyptus.

Among them is a cliff-dwelling boronia, a form previously unknown in the Kimberley but known in Arnhem Land and Kakadu. By using Google Earth to locate habitat similar to that seen in Kakadu, the brothers were able to target likely habitat on cliff faces.

Some of the species they have found can only be found in tropical Queensland or Indonesia. As Barrett says, 'it's a fascinating mystery how they got to the Kimberley'.

Kings Park, which funded the trip, will now work to identify, record, propagate and further research the new species.

Kings Park Science Director, Dr Kingsley Dixon, refers to the Kimberley as 'the last great botanical frontier in Australia'.

'As new discoveries like these occur, the threats that undermine the Kimberley region are increasing, so if we don't move quickly we may never know what we end up losing,' he says.

Mary-Lou Considine

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4 ECOS 155 | jun-jul | 2010

**Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc.
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Membership Application or Renewal Form

Membership Year is from 1st April to 31st March
(Initial half yearly membership is available for those joining around October)

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Fee: \$

If claiming full time student fee please quote Student No.....

Additional household members may be registered for a nominal fee of \$2.00 per person but they will not receive newsletters or magazines.

**Society for Growing Australian Plants Townsville Branch Inc ABN 32 302 397 597
Membership Fees:**

New Ordinary Member	\$40.00
New Student Member	\$30.00
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Renewal Student	\$25.00
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Queensland Bulletin subscription only	\$30.00

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**The Society for Growing Australian Plants promotes
the conservation of Australian native flora
by encouraging its introduction into gardens.**

